

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

Local action on 14 May

STRIKING

BACK!



Wednesday 14th May will see the biggest attempt yet to mobilise support against the Tory Government, when unions throughout the country respond to the TUC call for a day of action. Although the unions will be demonstrating specifically against the Employment Bill, the day of action is also aimed at showing the massive strength of feeling against the Government's destructive social and economic policies which, in the space of one year, have pushed the country back towards the repressive conditions of the 1930s.

The demonstrations nationwide will also become the focus for a solid campaign of action - both national and local - to fight the cuts in public services and living standards.

London will be at a virtual standstill, with no industry and no public transport running for the day. In Hackney the Trades Council, in co-operation with Tower Hamlets Trades Council, has organised a march, starting at 10.30 from the Town Hall in Mare Street, and proceeding to Victoria Park. At the park there will be a Family Festival, combining with the protest speeches. Among the events there will be sideshows, inflatables, kids' play areas, pony rides and many, many more things to do.

In deprived areas like Hackney, the effect of the Tories' policies have been felt even harder than elsewhere - and there is much more to come.

Already the public spending cuts and the economic crisis have led to the loss of several thousand public and private sector jobs in the borough, as well as drastically reducing the standard of many services. There are even larger medical cuts in the pipeline, with further hospital services to be axed and an even longer delay in the building of the new district hospital. Education services have been cut by at least 5% this year. Public transport fares are being forced up again, and the service is becoming even more unreliable.

On top of this the Government is also intending to pass a new Employment Act which will severely restrict the rights of trades unions

- rights which have only been won after many years' struggle against exploitation. A new Social Security Bill is also going through Parliament, which will hit those people who have been hardest hit by the present social and economic conditions - including the rising number of unemployed.

Rally

The Day of Action is important as a way of proving the weight of opposition to the Tories' ideology, and it is vital that as many people as possible turn up to the rally at Victoria Park. No-one is predicting the storming of Westminster, but this protest should consolidate further action among groups in the workplaces, houses and communities.

Hackney Trades Council's Fightback Committee has been organised to discuss means of fighting cuts in services and jobs. It holds regular fortnightly meetings at the Trades & Labour Hall in Dalston Lane, on Mondays at 8.00pm. The committee is open for anyone to join and contribute ideas and support. To be effective it needs the support of every local group - tenants' associations, community groups, trades unions, etc. The first meeting this month will be on Monday 12th May, and the next one a fortnight after.



GLC plan for Mare Street leaked

Secret plans leaked to the Graham Road Residents Group show that the GLC is still planning to tear the heart out of Mare Street in an attempt to "realign" the Morning Lane/Mare Street/Graham Road route. The plans were sent in confidence to Hackney Council and discussed in the secret part of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting. Council officers were then asked to prepare a report for the next committee meeting in June.

About thirty members of the Graham Road and Balls Pond Road Anti-Juggernaut Campaign staged a direct protest at the full Council meeting on 23 April when they showered leaflets from the public gallery into the chamber.

The GLC proposals include

- Knocking down all shops in Mare Street facing the end of Graham Road.
- Knocking down all shops on the right hand corner of Graham Road and Mare Street as far as The Cock pub.
- Knocking down all shops on the left hand corner as far as Woolworths.
- Knocking down buildings on the north side of Morning Lane and Chalgrove Road.

The Graham Road Group have been campaigning for over a year to get the high volume of HGV traffic using the route reduced. Currently over 3,500 juggernauts use the road between 5 am and 10 pm every day, causing noise, nuisance and disturbance to the people living in the almost wholly residential road. The GLC document admits that the problem has recently got worse, and

Above: Ron Brown learns about the GLC plans from a Graham Road resident. Top: Collecting signatures in Mare Street.

quotes official figures that the night-time traffic alone has recently increased from 600 lorries to 850 lorries between midnight and 6 am.

Residents are particularly angry for two main reasons. First, the plans have been discussed secretly by the GLC without the Hackney Council's knowledge. Secondly, the proposals are in direct opposition to the support given by Hackney Council to the Group when it presented its petition last year. Since then at numerous public meetings, representatives of Hackney Council, including deputy leader John Kotz, and chairperson of Planning and Highways Committee Bob Masters, have promised residents that under no circumstances would the Council agree to changes along the Wick-Highbury Corner route until the juggernaut problem had been solved.

700 SIGN

The demonstration in the Council chamber was followed by a signature-collecting session in Mare Street on Saturday 26 April. Over 700 people condemned the GLC proposals in just over two hours - an indication of the depth of feeling among Hackney people.

There is to be a public meeting on Tuesday 6 May at 7.30 at the Trades and Labour Hall, 96 Dalston Lane. Anyone wanting to help with the Anti-Juggernaut campaigns is welcome to attend. Various public demonstrations and actions are being planned and there will also be a deputation to the GLC.

INSIDE

**ANTI-RACIST
SUPPLEMENT**

**KID'S PAGE
RETURNS!**



GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Before I begin, a prize to "Football fan" of London N16 for being the first person to notice the deliberate mistake which has been appearing in this paper for some six months now. I refer of course to the little man at the head of this piece. He should of course be number 10 and not number 8. Those idiots on HPP who "delight in misinforming the uninformed", as Johnny Kotz so wittily calls them, don't, I regret to say, know their Vilas from their Ardiles when it comes to football! Fancy thinking that an inside left wore number 8 on his shirt! Buffoons!

However, to return to more serious things. Hackney Central Labour Party. Such a serious subject that Transport House itself is getting very worried about it. It seems that top party officials are not too happy about some things deep in the heart of Hackney politics. Certain scurrings have been going on between Dalston Lane and the new Labour headquarters in the Walworth Road. Some of the individual ward annual general meetings have had to be held again. Suffice it to say now that I shall be returning to this subject soon...

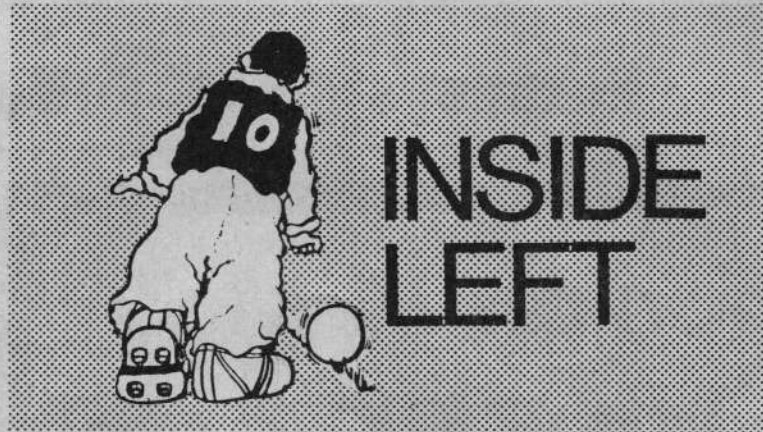
However, what has really set the bees buzzing along

the town hall corridors has been the changes in the Council committees. As I predicted last month, some important changes have been made. Most striking of these has been the removal of Mick Andrews from the chair of Housing Development committee, where he has been a conspicuous non-success for several years, and the promotion of his ex-wife Joannie to the chair of Social Services. (It's not my job to investigate the personal relations between Hackney Councillors. These are, anyway, so extensive that it would take a whole issue of HPP to explain them. There are, for instance, three pairs of fathers and daughters currently members.)

ANTICS

Mick has not been replaced by his deputy, Anthony Kendall, who has voted against the whip too often to be regarded as safe. He has been sacked too and Mick's seat has been given to Jim Holland. (Jim who? You may well ask.)

There have been further antics on the Health and Consumer Protection Committee. Three Broad Left councillors, Peter Kahn, Patrick Kodikara and Keith Lichman, were left



off the list when the selection committee reported to the Labour group. When they checked who had put their names down for which committee they found that only 16 people wanted to be on the committee, which was exactly the number required. The selection committee had drafted in three new members who weren't even interested in Health and Consumer Protection! A plot was suspected. Quite rightly, too. The three lefties were being punished for voting against the whip over the amount of money allocated for bed and breakfast for homeless people staying in the various rip-off Finsbury Park hostels. Despite the fact that 13 councillors voted against orders on this issue, they were the ones to be dropped.

Despite making a fuss at the group meeting, they still couldn't get themselves onto the committee. The most Unsilent Three then pulled a trick of their own. They found two people willing to swap committees - Jackie Warawi and Sam Springer, and so Peter Kahn and Keith Lichman took their places, girding their loins for another season.

And so the musical chairs game comes to an end for another year. The old gramophone has been wound up for another year, and the record dropped onto the turntable. The music's just starting again: "Oh, go the cries, 'just listen, they're playing our tune, Puppet on a String!'"

LOYALTY?

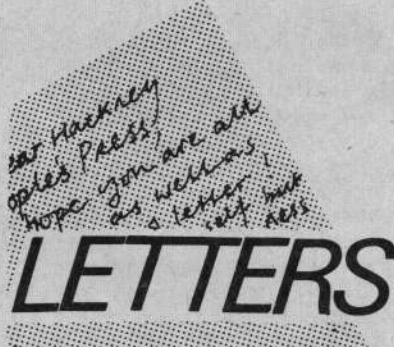
Dear HPP

In recent years the central theme for the left in Britain has been political accountability. National examples are the Labour Party debates about re-selection, election of the Party leader and the manifesto, and the Communist Party debates around the new "British Road to Socialism". Locally, equally important initiatives are the efforts, including those of Hackney People's Press, to open up decision-taking in the borough. Indeed such has been the main purpose for the existence of Hackney People in Partnership. The demand for full public accountability has been seen as a principle rather than a tactic from left-wingers.

If the demand for accountability of public authorities is not to be purely hypocritical, it seems to me that one has equally to support the principle that community and voluntary organisations are accountable for what they do. They should take responsibility for their actions, and should indeed be glad and proud to do so. This applies irrespective of any source of funding.

Your report (April issue) concerning the Housing Action Group appears to suggest that individualistic tactics by anonymous organisations are in some sense worthwhile or progressive. It will be clear from the bulk of this letter that I do not agree. People and organisations should be answerable for their actions - not least to those whom they most affect. It is the very issue which is now being fought with the Council on a whole series of fronts.

The central point of principle aside, your article



LETTERS

contains a number of inaccuracies, not the least being that my motives were primarily concerned with "Labour party loyalty". Had that been the case, I would not have gone out of my way to inform the people concerned of the actions I had taken - which presumably provided the basis for your story.

It goes without saying that I would condemn unreservedly any attempt to victimise any individual for their political actions or beliefs.

I should emphasise, finally, that Councillor Kotz' enquiry was personal to me, and not to People in Partnership as an organisation.

Yours sincerely
CHARLES CLARKE

HPP replies:
Charles Clarke must know that we would not agree with what he says about this issue. The central point is not about "accountability" but that he did not respond to Mr Kotz's question with the official contact address of the Housing Action Group. Instead he gave him the name of an individual, and other groups, whose positions could have been made very difficult by his action.

DISARMAMENT

Dear HPP

I was surprised and disturbed by your article, "How Hackney Prepares For Big Bang" (April) on two counts. Firstly, there is the facetious manner in which the report is written. All observers are now agreed that the death toll in Britain in the event of a nuclear holocaust would be in the order of 25 million. That is not to mention the condition of those who would be "lucky" enough to survive suffering the agonies of nuclear burns and radiation sickness nor to mention the genetic defects that will curse succeeding generations. We in Hackney may not have to worry overmuch about succeeding generations, given that our geographical position in relation to central London and the missile bases in East Anglia make it a certainty that the death toll for Hackney will be 100 per cent should there be a nuclear war. Given the above facts, then I fail to see how your article could be worded in the lighthearted way in which it was.

Secondly, I want to take issue with you on the implied criticism of Cllr Kotz and Hackney Council over your point about what arrangements were being made by Hackney councillors to see us through the disaster. You have made many criticisms of Cllr Kotz and Hackney Council in the past, many of which I have agreed with. However, your criticism now appears to have become automatic.

On this issue, Cllr Kotz speaks sound commonsense. Quite apart from the points that Cllr Kotz makes, it should be apparent to every politically aware person by

now that what Mrs Thatcher, Mr Pym and their propagandists in the news media are about is creating a war psychosis amongst the British people. This takes the form of "softening up" the public for nuclear war by churning out acres of propaganda, the main theme of which is emphasising that only 25 million will die if we all start digging nuclear shelters. By your implicit criticism of Cllr Kotz you give credence to Mrs Thatcher's absurd propaganda.

Cllr Kotz makes the point that our government should follow a foreign policy that will go all out to avoid war, and here he strikes the nail absolutely on the head for that is the only protection against nuclear disaster.

I consider that by your article you have done a disservice to the movement for international peace. You should take immediate steps to rectify the matter.

Recently, the World Disarmament Campaign held a national convention in London attended by over two thousand delegates with the aim of "arousing all peoples in support of policies for disarmament throughout the world in order to save mankind". Amongst these delegates was Ms Kay Beauchamp representing Hackney Trades Council. You can help spread the peace message by opening your columns to a report of that conference by Kay. I hope you can see your way clear to doing that.

Yours fraternally
DERMOT MCNEILL

HPP replies:
Point taken. We have asked Kay to write an article for our next issue.

New NF enquiry starts

Round one has gone to Hackney Council in its planning battles with the National Front over their headquarters in Great Eastern Street. Environment Minister Michael Heseltine agreed with the Ministry Inspector that their use of the premises constituted a change of use from the authorised use as a warehouse, and that the NF must stop.

However, as the NF claimed throughout the enquiry that they were not in fact using the building as a headquarters at all, it remains to be seen what will now happen. There is also the added complication that there are two further planning enquiries to be held during May. These are to try and force Hackney Council to allow the Front's subsidiary



company, Leachouse Ltd., to set up a printworks in the premises and to permit the top floor to be used as a social club. The first of these may well be a very difficult case, since the area is "zoned" for light industry, and printing is just the sort of industry wanted in Shoreditch.

The second planning enquiry, about the use by the NF of the top floor as a canteen and refreshment club, is also made more complicated by the internal squabbles that continue to beset the leadership. The three leaders, Tyndall, Webster and Verrall, still seem to be in some sort of disgrace, although all are still active. The new chairman is Andrew Brons, who is not so tainted with the "Nazi" image that his predecessors cannot shake off. It is difficult to find out whether his takeover of the chair is connected with the financial struggle over the control of the building itself. Various notices to quit have been served on various tenants of the so-called Excalibur House.

What is certain, however, is that there does not seem to be any legal way in which the Council can stop the NF from owning and occupying the building. They can try and place as many obstructions as possible in their way to prevent them using it for the purpose for which it was undoubtedly bought and occupied. They may have won the first skirmish, but there promises to be a long political battle ahead to rid Shoreditch of the Nazi menace in its midst.

DOG'S LIFE

An attempt is to be made to set up a Hackney branch of the League for the Introduction of Canine Controls (LIOC). Over the past two years, a few people have tried to get the Council to recognise that there is a real health hazard to humans from dog faeces deposited in our parks and streets. There is no doubt that helminthic worms picked up from the faeces cause toxocariasis, which can make people blind. Children playing on grassy areas are particularly at risk. It has also been known for some time that the domestic dog has been implicated in the transmission to man of various bacterial and viral infections. Salmonella (a type of food poisoning) and shigella (a type of dysentery) have been well documented.

ACCIDENTS

As well as the health hazard, there is the nuisance and danger caused by dogs allowed to roam freely in all parts of the borough during the day. Some dog owners who are working seem to simply turn their pets out in the morning and leave them to fend for themselves. As a result, there have been reports of large dog packs congregating in parks like London Fields. The size of these alone can be alarming but obviously young children and the elderly are especially at risk of being bitten. It is also widely accepted by parties involved in investigation of road accidents that dogs, whether controlled or stray, are a major factor in many road accidents.

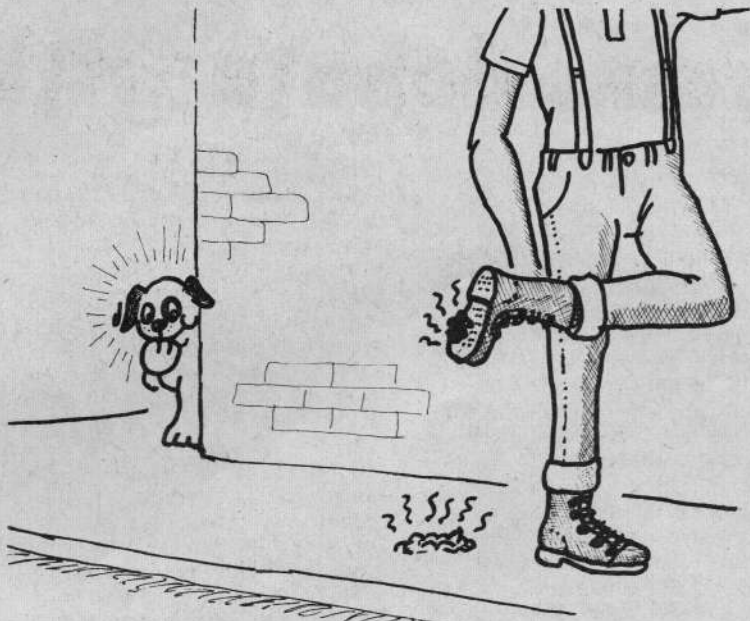
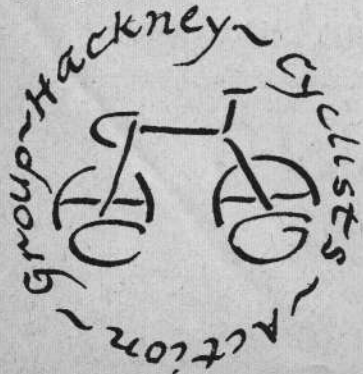
cycling

Do you ride a bicycle? Want to learn more about bicycle maintenance and safety? Well, the Hackney Cyclists' Action Group will be holding a bike workshop on Saturday 10 May at 101 Stoke Newington Church Street, N16 (a shopfront), from 10 am to 2 pm.

The aim is to attract local people who have bikes to come along and learn about maintenance and safety. We will have some experts there to help people work on their own bikes. Also we want to speak about HCAG and impress that if things are going to improve for cyclists we will have to campaign and fight for them.

If this workshop is successful, we will hold another on Saturday 14 June.

If you'd like further information, please contact Chas on 986 7010 or Tessa on 254 4559.



LIOC was recently formed as a national organisation in an attempt to harness the vast amount of strong feelings aroused by dog nuisance. MPs from all the major political parties have given support. LIOC is not against dogs as long as they are looked after responsibly and cause no harm, inconvenience or nuisance to people. Indeed, some dog owners are members of the campaign.

As a national pressure group, LIOC is seeking changes in the law and wants to see implemented the 1976 Department of the Environment's working party report on dogs which recommended amongst other things, a licence fee of around £9 at today's prices and a national dog warden service.

WARDENS

At a local level, Hackney LIOC would be pressing for the employment of dog wardens to round up strays and enforce laws relating to fouling of pavements. The present bylaw relating to dogs on leads in parks must be enforced but LIOC would call for a further restriction by the creation of dog-free areas in every park. Publicity campaigns could be

launched by the Council to persuade dog owners to be more responsible. LIOC thinks dogs should be banned from all food shops, restaurants and pubs.

RESPONSE

The response from Hackney residents to my original question at a Council meeting nearly two years ago on restricting dogs in our parks was overwhelmingly in favour of more controls. It could be argued that there are many more pressing problems facing the people in Hackney than dog nuisance, and of course this is true. However, for very little money the environment of the borough could be made a great deal better for all those people who find enormous pleasure in our parks and open spaces.

Surely in 1980 we should not allow dogs to enjoy more laissez-faire than humans? If you are interested in joining LIOC or attending the first meeting of a Hackney group to be held in the first week of June please contact Mike Crook, a member of the national committee, on 802 9895 or me on 254 2921.

Catharine Hoey

OTHER NEWS

Up and down the country people slave away on papers like HPP for no money, no glamour and, it sometimes seems, precious little response to their efforts. Why do they do it? That's a good question, and if you want an answer you might find several in a pamphlet published recently by the Minority Press Group, "Here Is The Other News" (£1.25). MPG found more than 70 papers currently being published in various towns, boroughs and communities. These range from a weekly newspaper, West Highland Free Press, published on the Isle of Skye, which covers much of the Inner Hebrides and the Western Highlands of Scotland, to papers which just circulate in a single ward or parish, and which only come out once every couple of months.

SURVEY

The pamphlet has sections on the history and origins of the local radical press and a survey of the press today. This is completed by a series of six articles about various community newspapers written mainly by the papers themselves. These include a piece about our neighbours Islington Gutter Press, and several very different papers in Earls Court, Swansea, Brighton, Rochdale and Aberdeen.

FUTURE

The people who work on HPP are at present involved in a long series of discussions about the future of the paper and how we can expand it. How can we increase circulation? Can we come out fortnightly? Can we afford to pay a full-time worker? These are some of the questions that we tax ourselves with every week. We would like to know what you think about HPP and its future. Write to us and let us know. Or, better still, come along to one of our meetings. These are held at Centreprise every Monday (except the last in each month) at 8 pm.

press protest

For the past seven years Community Press has been functioning as a non-profit making resource in Islington, North London.

We offer a variety of facilities ranging from space for meetings and band practices to typewriters, lay-out materials, printing presses and darkrooms.

We also teach people how the printing process works. This takes place on several levels - teaching design and lay-out, teaching groups to do part of the process themselves and teaching individuals who come in regularly one day a week until they feel that they can handle all the processes involved in offset litho printing.

It was because of our commitment to demystifying printing that we were originally funded by the Arts Council of Great Britain.

Our first grant was in 1976 and has been renewed annually until April 1980. We have now been informed by the Arts Council that we will not be funded for the coming year. They say that because we do too much service work (doing the work for people rather than doing it with them) we are no longer suitable for funding.

The grant, our sole source of funding, enabled us to spend time teaching people. But we have had to do service work to cover the teaching too. £5,400 (the grant for 1979/80) didn't cover any of the wastage or the renewal costs of ancient machinery. Our realistic assessment for maintaining the teaching role of Community Press is in the region of £35,000 p.a.

COMMITMENT

We are committed to maintaining an open access press and we are determined to carry on, though not without protest. We are contacting all the groups and individuals who have used the Press in the last year to ask them to write letters of protest to John Bustin, the Regional Officer of the Arts Council.

ACTION ON THE BUSES

From 21 June, Amhurst Road will have its own bus service. The S3, which was extended in 1979 to run through to Hackney Station is now to continue on to Stoke Newington.

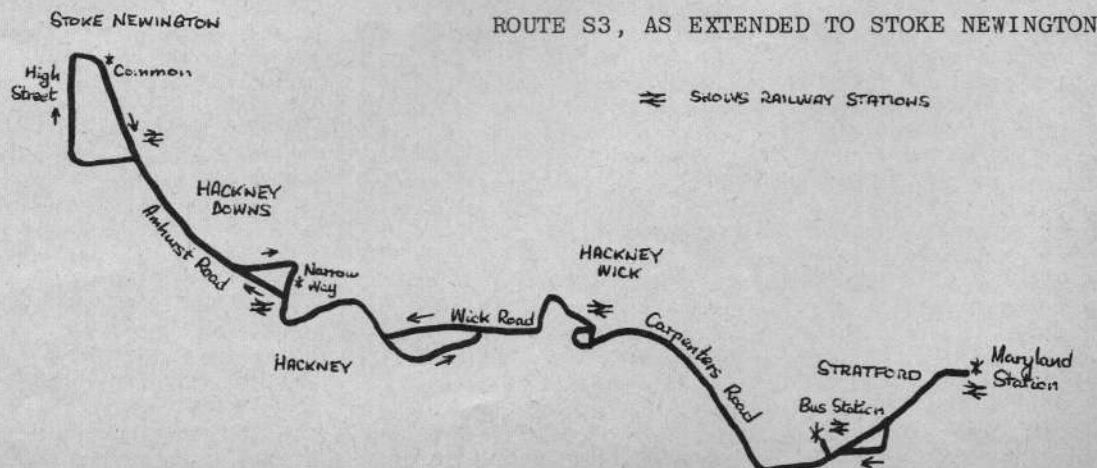
The original extension was primarily a result of campaigning by the Trowbridge Estate Tenants' Association, who felt that terminating the bus at Hackney Wick was pointless. The new link to Stoke Newington has been drawn up largely as a response to the work of the Hackney Public Transport Action Committee (HPTAC), who have long been pressing for a bus route along Amhurst Road. The bus will in fact turn from Amhurst Road into Rectory Road and join the one-way traffic system at Manse Road. It will then run through the High Street and round to the Common returning via Rectory Road.

The S3 will provide a 20-minute service from Stratford bus station to Stoke Newington on Mondays to Fridays off-peak and on Saturdays. There will be a 15-minute service in peak hours, connecting through to Maryland Station. No evening

or Sunday service is planned as yet, but it should be possible to justify this if enough people use the bus at other times. The flat fare will be 20p as at present.

HPTAC is continuing to campaign for better buses and trains in the borough.

If you would like to join us please contact Tim Woods, our full-time researcher, at 380 Old Street, EC1V 9LS, phone 739 5137.



Fade away, or radiate?

HANG win nuclear trains debate with 'pros'

It's a tough time to be in the pro-nuclear lobby. However you argue you are trapped by a shady past, or a more dubious future. After years of saying that accidents can't happen, people have now decided that 'well, yes they could, although of course it's very unlikely'.

Perhaps this is the essence of their dilemma. Having moved a step nearer honesty, no one in the anti-nuclear movement trusts them anyway, because they have effectively shown themselves

that is the pattern of shipments of nuclear fuel (to power the nuclear energy plants) and nuclear waste then created. Focus of these operations is the Windscale, Cumbria, plant to which the

generations and centuries," he said, referring to the lingering after-effects of such a disaster, and the need to evacuate tens of thousands of people if the worst happened in an area like Hackney. In the event of, for example, the escape of 10 per cent of caesium fuel in the worst weather conditions (an east wind), Wakstein claimed all of Hackney south of Graham Road would need to be evacuated if an accident took place at Stratford. He further claimed there was "not the slightest intention" to call for an evacuation, as in any case there was no single government department responsible. This situation would lead to 6,000 deaths resulting directly from the accident over 30 years and three million cancer deaths. However, an evacuation would not help much, Wakstein added, because of the spreading effect of fall-out; for example, London could be affected by an accident at Windscale. "It's a question of people being kept out long enough, not evacuated fast enough."

Wakstein's fellow speaker, Klaus Graichen, had previously pointed out it had already become known that shoddy welding on the flasks had been used and these had not been tested properly. Also, the tests done to try out a flask's ability to withstand the kind of impact that could occur in an accident had only been carried out with models, he said.

Uncompromising

Summing up for HANG, he added, "We demand therefore that the transportation of nuclear waste through Hackney should be stopped." And their stand was uncompromising: "Nuclear power is not necessary," he added.

The approach from the "pros" was, not surprisingly, quite different. Mr Matthews from the CEBG assured us because of the need to comply with safety regulations and unique safeguards imposed by the overseeing authorities - Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, Department of Transport and so on - they can have plants shut down. It was without foundation, he claimed, that people were saying that an accident could lead to large numbers of dead.

After this introduction, Matthews then proceeded through a series of slides and attempted to explain the nuclear industry's ways and processes. But he fell into the trap of over-complicating explanations and introducing irrelevant matter to the subject of the debate; not the best way to put yourself on a par with a lay audience, and just the kind of thing to further public suspicion of the scientific elite.

He showed a slide of a flask to carry fuel which he said is "extremely strong and robust in construction...welded and inspected at all

stages of manufacture". Among the tests performed (on models as we later learned) was putting the flask in a fire at 800°C for half an hour. Four-and-a-half thousand consignments had been transported safely to date with only "two or three" derailments in marshalling yards.

Every borough has a Flask Emergency Plan, Matthews assured his listeners. In the event of accident, a guard or train driver would alert the local railway control office, who in turn would contact the emergency services and the nearest nuclear power station (three hours away in London's case) for expert help.

He was supported, somewhat drily, by BR's "expert", Mr Southgate. Again the audience were told of the "public watchdog" there to protect them, in this case the railway inspectorate of the Department of Transport. Other facts were presented for reassurance: British Rail operates a computerised freight transport system so that a watch can be kept on any consignment wherever it may be; freight trains only

travel at 20-30 mph in London; signalmen watch trains too; 17 years have passed without a single accident; all freight is labelled to identify it and so on.

Intriguing

It was an intriguing debate which HANG won heavily by audience scoring over the pros. There was so much confusion as to how an evacuation would take place, if one ever did, in the event of an accident, that surely even the men in smart suits on the front two rows must have left wondering if they really ought not to ensure that they didn't live too near a freight line, just in case the impossible happened, which of course it won't (as it didn't at Harrisburg).

The debate continues, and in the Council chambers too, where Hackney has now followed others and decided to call for the ending of transport of fuel through the borough. But do they have the political clout to get those trains out...fade away, or radiate?



A procession of anti-nuclear protesters along Balls Pond Road.

to be untrustworthy. So it was with more than a pinch of salt that the audience at a debate on the transport of nuclear fuel through Hackney took the "pros" case.

At the meeting, held by Hackney Council at the Town Hall on 14 April, a testing question and answer session showed the audience's scepticism and distrust of the men from the establishment. While the director of operations from the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), one Mr Roy Matthews, and British Rail's chief operations manager, Mr J Southgate, put over eloquent cases, they clearly failed to convince those present that it was okay to have potentially lethal substances such as plutonium transported by rail through Hackney and Dalston.

"dissident"

Putting the case against fuel transport, and initiators of the whole local debate, were Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group (HANG) in the form of Klaus Graichen and Dr Charles Wakstein. The latter is a nuclear "dissident" who has joined the "no nukes" lobby despite 30 years in the nuclear business because he does not think atomic power is safe.

Wakstein portrays a horrifying picture of the nuclear industry in Britain. He described the "octopus"

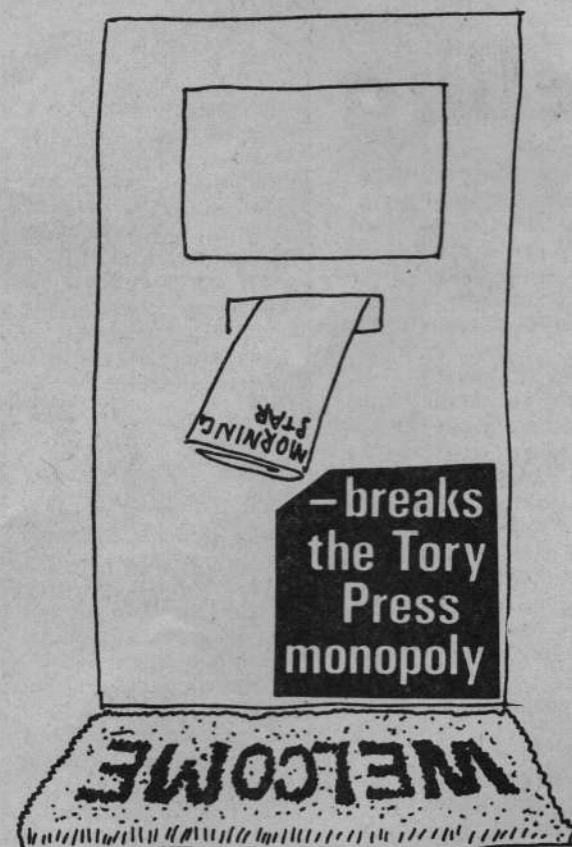
radioactive material is taken along railway lines from many parts of the country. These "tentacles" pass through Hackney, from Bradwell and Sizewell nuclear power stations, and all join at the octopus' head which is Windscale. Because of this pattern, Wakstein points out that Lancaster is the most likely part of the country to suffer an accident from transporting nuclear material.

The nuclear waste carried by trains is the worst threat as it contains used fuel - plutonium, uranium and other radioactive materials. (It is the plutonium from this source which is made into atomic bombs.) This cargo is so intensely radioactive, said Dr Wakstein, that although the flask it is contained in cuts down the radioactivity from it by a factor of 250,000, there is still a field around a flask that gives a dose rate of radioactivity 200 times that permitted as "safe". The public and railway workers are subject to this.

Wakstein pointed out that it had already been admitted that the flasks are insecure and Mr Matthews from the CEBG said there could be an escape. "It's only a matter of time," Wakstein said, "before there is a major accident," and he produced evidence from computer read outs had run based on Atomic Energy Authority data. They showed that 6,000 deaths could occur in certain conditions from a spillage after a flask became damaged. "We are talking of

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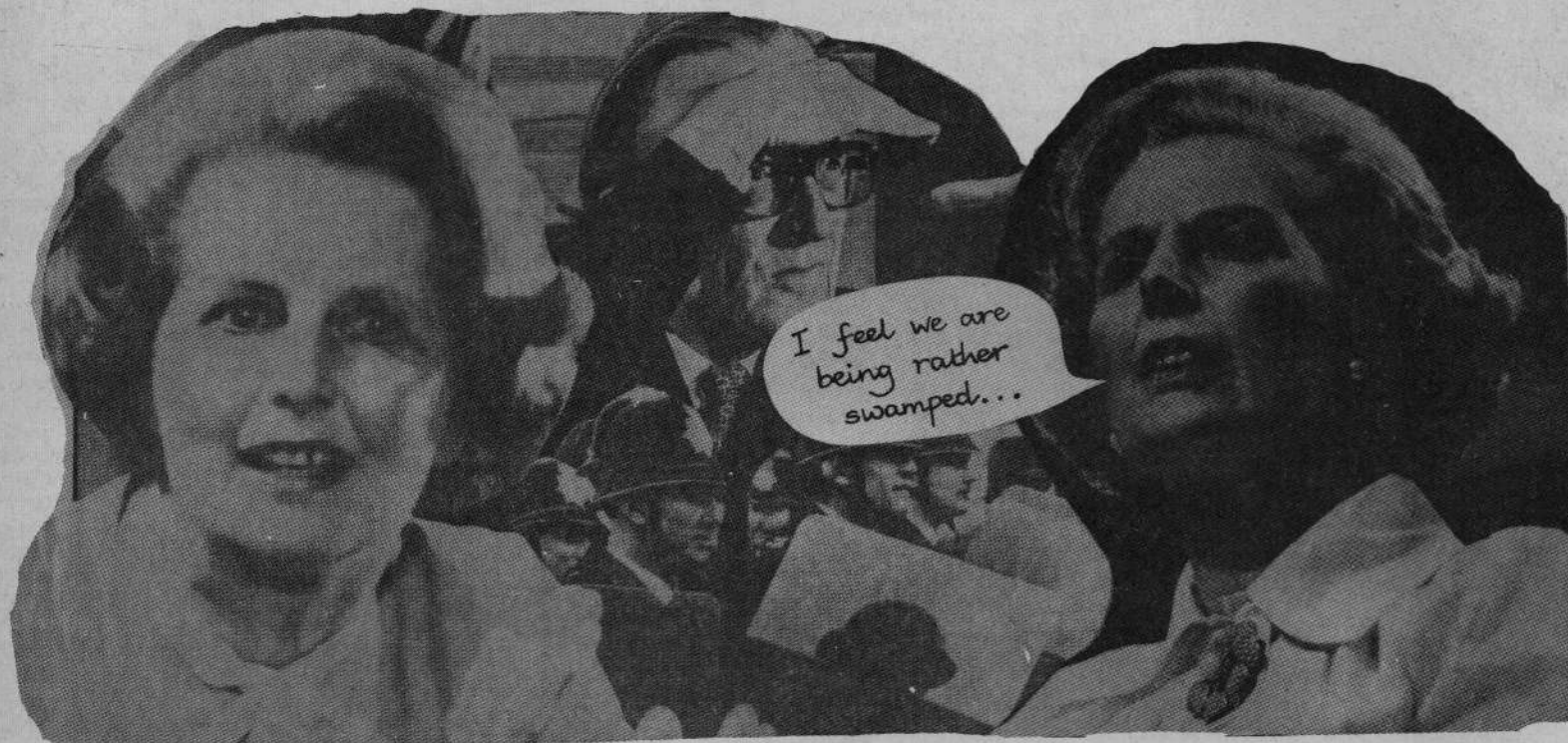
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HACKNEY Against RACISM

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM



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Justice in the Courts

FINDING A VOICE - - - hackney black school students speak out

Life in the borough of Hackney has become a struggle for survival. Public cuts are continuing to erode basic rights such as health and housing, and the planned amalgamation of Hackney schools resulting in the closure of five secondary schools means that education is also under threat from the state - a trend we have experienced under successive governments, Tory and Labour alike. Many teachers stand to lose their jobs in the reorganisation; many children their chance of a proper education.

Employment prospects for young people about to leave school are grim too. Jobs, along with public amenities are disappearing faster than ever and already too many children face a future that holds very little hope.

DISCRIMINATION

Black children are worst hit. Discrimination against young black people is not confined to the police. Racist attitudes among employers means that a disproportionate number of black school leavers face the dole queue; in Hackney the numbers for unemployed black youth are about three times higher than for white youth, and these figures are typical of many parts of the country.

The disadvantages black school leavers face are not new. For most of them it's an extension of the inequality black people as a whole experience in this country; school is a part of that picture. Denying children their culture, colour and language, if they are Asian or West Indian children particularly, is the effect that British schools have. This is because for the most part the values taught at school and the people teaching them are white.

Even white children living in Hackney don't find school relevant. If that's true, imagine how much more disenchanted and put down black children will feel in a situation where the way they talk is considered wrong rather than just different and where, if they are West Indian, they are expected to do worse than the white children.

With education in a deepening crisis and schools threatened with closure, the situation is very bad for young people. Schools should wake up to reality - the reality of the prejudices and racist ideas, and the fact that soon, most of the young people leaving school (black and white) won't be able to get jobs. It is, after all, the responsibility of the school to prepare their students for the world outside. Part of this responsibility is to help and encourage children to understand the world they are growing up in; to allow them to voice their opinions, exchange their views and express their criticisms in a way that will help them in the future they face.

MISEDUCATION?

Education, at its best, should help to give children an authority over their own experience. The British education system attempts to do the opposite in order to mould today's youth into tomorrow's docile workers. In order to do that, the schools have to negate children's own experience of the world - its poverty, its injustice, its racism and sexism - and make these things 'acceptable'. Schools try to tell black children that they 'have a chip on their shoulder' or are 'paranoid' or 'imagining things' when black kids try to confront white racism.

But it is always a battle: and the state doesn't always win.

Below is a conversation between five pupils in a local comprehensive school. The questioners shown by the letter Q, are two white pupils in the third year at Dalston Mount School. The three girls who answer the questions have not given their real names and are shown by the letters M, H and J. M, H, and J are all black. Their parents come from the West Indies but all three were born in England. All the five children are friends and classmates. They questioned each other, talked to each other and tape recorded their own conversation. No adult was present when they did so.

Their conversation is a testimony to the racism that black children face daily - inside and outside the schools.

It is a testimony to their toughness and integrity that they refuse to believe that racism is a figment of their imagination (individual and collective). They know racism is real - they feel it and experience it, both individually and collectively. They refuse to negate that experience, their reality.

And finally, their dialogue is a testimony to their bigness. For, with all their experience of racism, nowhere is there any hatred of white people, no bitterness. Only the desire to survive, to fight for their right to be black and to be treated as equals as people in their own right.

This conversation is a little glimpse of their world and what it holds for them.

* * * * *

INTERVIEW....

Q What is it like being black and growing up in an area like Hackney?

J It's hard being black round here. There's a lot of unemployment for blacks, especially the youth. If you want a job you often have to travel far to get one. It's a disturbing place to live in really.

M You get a lot of people calling you names ... you know, racist ones ...

H You don't get as far as white people either, like in jobs and things.

Q Can you think of any parts of Hackney where things are particularly bad for black people?

J Yes, in Hoxton and round Great Eastern Street. It's bad because that's where the N.F. HQ is. Many of the N.F. leaders live in Hoxton. Derek Day does. The atmosphere is really bad round there. There's a lot of people who agree with what the N.F. say, ranging from young people to kids to old age pensioners.

H I live in Hoxton. It's horrible. There's tons of graffiti against black people round there. People get picked up for 'SUS' all the time, too.

M Bethnal Green is bad: it's mostly whites there, hardly any blacks.

H Brick Lane is bad too. A lot of Asians get stabbed round there.

Q Have you ever come across any discrimination yourself?

J Only being called names and things like that. But my friends, some Rastas, were doing building work opposite Great Eastern Street near the N.F. H.Q. They took the N.F. to court because they called them names, spat at them, and caused trouble. They won compensation. The N.F. member had to pay fines. That was in 1979 and it was in 'Hackney Gazette' and all.

M I've seen Asians being beaten up by white people for no reason.

Q How would you feel if some one didn't give you a job because you're black?

J Well you can't prove it, yer know, you might feel angry but you couldn't do much about it. But you can tell from the way they look at you or treat you.

H If I went for a job and a white person went for the job and she was a friend and she got it I'd probably know the boss was prejudiced if we had the same qualifications and all that.

Q What sort of things can black people do to fight racism?

J Well, as I said before, black people can't get any justice unless they stand up and fight for their rights and are backed by their friends. You can't win a war because you have to have an army. You can't win justice because you have to have the jury. Even if you take people to court the black person never wins because the magistrates are always white and they are often racists.

continued overleaf....



IMMIGRATION LAWS ARE RACIST LAWS

For many black people in Hackney being questioned and harassed by the police is an everyday occurrence. The last 'Hackney Against Racism' spelt out some of those experiences. But what people may not hear about is that in Hackney a black person has a far greater chance of being questioned about their immigration status than in any other area with significant numbers of black people living there.

Anyone driving a car might be stopped by the police and asked to produce insurance documents or their driving licence. If you are black, it's likely that you will be asked to show information concerning your immigration status. Perhaps you may have been burgled; if you are black be prepared to produce a passport as well as a list of things stolen when the police come round.

Over a hundred million white people are free to enter Britain at any time - from the Common Market to Rhodesia. Black people - thanks to the controls created by the 1971 Immigration Act - have been subjected to virginity tests on entry and can be deported if they become an in patient of a mental hospital. Children are often separated from their parents and questioned. They might be subjected to X-ray examination, sometimes two or three times, although in the U.K. X-raying of children for non medical purposes is forbidden because of the risk of damage to glands. Entering the country is deliberately difficult for people who want to join their families here. At the end of June 1979, 27,000 applications for immediate settlement were outstanding in the Indian sub continent.

Since the 1971 Act came into effect, over 7000 people have been imprisoned under its various powers; the Act gives police and the Home Secretary the power of detention without trial. Many of those 'detained' from Hackney end up in Pentonville prison, and the average stay there can be up to six months. Under the law the Home Office does not have to prove that a person has entered the country illegally - it is up to the person to prove that he or she is legally resident.

According to reports in newspapers you would think that most people arrested are those caught on a beach having crossed the channel in a small boat. Actual court judgements show that many of those detained have entered the country legally but have overstayed their visa. Others may first have entered the country many years ago - sometimes as dependent children at an age when they could not be held to have practised any deception themselves. Others have been deported for offences like first time shoplifting or failure to pay a bus fare.

When arrested it has been found that a lot of people are not released on bail, despite case histories from the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants showing that approximately 70% should have been released, including sick, pregnant and elderly women.

CASES...

Take, for example, the case of Abdul Azad who works and lives in Oldham and was picked up for questioning in October 1978 after his mother was murdered. Held for a day without food he was released that night but picked up the next morning. It was clear that the police were more interested in forcing Abdul to confess that he was not the son of his parents than investigating his mother's murder. After a three month spell in Risley Remand Centre and successful campaigning by groups and the Abdul Azad Defence Committee, Abdul was finally released and allowed remain in this country.

Or the case of Gias Uddin, a 19 year old restaurant worker who came from Bangladesh in 1975 and who was held after a 'routine' check up on 'illegal' immigrants in restaurants in the Southport area. Immigration officials claimed he was not the biological son of his father - an insult to his family. This was based on the sole ground of a letter found in his flat addressed to 'Salik Miah'. Salik Miah is Gias' nickname - in Bangladesh villages it is common practice to adopt nicknames.

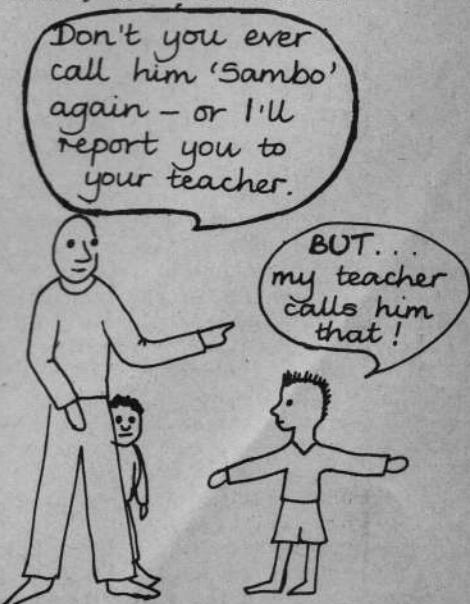
Or Nasira Begum threatened with deportation following the breakdown of her marriage - immigration officials state hers was a marriage of convenience.

Have you ever gone to a police station to ask directions and find yourself getting arrested? What about sight-seeing round Trafalgar Square and getting stopped and arrested by a policeman? These are just a couple of examples of the widespread arrests and harassment of blacks and 'immigrants' in this country - the above examples being an Spaniard and an Egyptian. Despite various pledges, raids to find 'illegal immigrants' have continued.

Yet another aspect of the law that many people do not hear about is the passing on of information to the Home Office or Immigration Offices. At Barts Hospital in Hackney a woman patient had information passed from the D.H.S.S. to the Home Office without her or her doctor's permission. Have you ever had to produce a passport when your child has applied to enter a new school? This has happened to a British born black woman in Bristol. Or refused a job because you have not produced a passport - the experience of a West Indian who has lived here since 1961. The cases are numerous - but despite the large number of people detained in Holloway or Pentonville prisons, we don't seem to hear much about those in Hackney.

'Hackney Against Racism' would be interested in anyone with experience of such harassment.

Further information and advice on immigration can be obtained from the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, 44 Theobalds Rd., London, WC1. Phone 405 5527



INTERVIEW continued

- M Black people can go on marches and send leaflets out and all get together.
- H Yeah, I think they can go on demonstrations and put up leaflets and posters and that sort of thing.
- Q How do you think black people are shown on TV and films and so on?
- J To me, black people are shown as idiots on TV. They never get a proper role. Anything they star in, like in films, they're always shown as clowns or Zulus or slaves. The only programme I've seen where they were shown as real people was 'Roots' - that was great.
- M There's this programme called 'Grange Hill'. There's two black boys in it 'Hugsie & Benny' - but they're the only black people in it. There's hardly no black girls in it or I've never seen any black girls in it, anyway.
- H There's hardly any black people in advertising either. And the parts they get in films are usually as slaves and things. They never get any good parts do they?
- J Yeah, that's true.
- Q Do you think it's true that the police pick on black people, especially the youth?
- J Yeah, I think they pick on black youth a lot. If I was a black youth and say I was coming back from a party one late night and I was looking into a shop the police would pick me up for 'SUS'. A lot of people are trying to get rid of 'SUS' but they can't do it.
- M Say, like a black person was just coming home from college and he had a big bag with him and he was standing at a bus stop
- and a white woman's bag was open and the police were coming past. If the police saw him they'd think he was trying to thief the woman's purse an' thing. They'd pick him up on 'SUS'. They don't like Rastas either, because of the way they look and dress.
- Q Can you think of any ways in which black people can change white people's attitudes to black people?
- J Well, like I said before, black people got to fight and stand up for their rights or they get trampled on. BUT it's not up to black people to change white people's attitudes - it's up to the white people themselves to change their own attitudes. They should look on black people like humans, not treat them like a piece of dirt.
- M Well I think it's quite hard to change white people's attitudes because they go back a long way, don't they? To the days of slavery and all that. Well, England's a white society ain't it?
- H They should treat black people like humans, not like monkeys or slaves.
- Q Do you think some teachers are prejudiced towards black kids?
- J Yes I do. There are many teachers in this school who are really prejudiced against black people. They don't show it but if you're smart and clever you can look and see they're prejudiced. They go on as if you're dumb or something. To me, they teach the white children more than they teach the black children and they give white children more attention than they give black children.
- M Yeah, I agree.
- H True.

Q Do you think there are things happening in the country now that affect black people?

J Yes. Lots of things affect black people. Cost of living, inflation, bad housing, immigration, and everything. Margaret Thatcher wants to deport black people but if they do, when something like a war breaks out or when they want people to run their buses or hospitals, I wonder what they'll do and who'll help them? Margaret Thatcher now, she's sly. They won't chuck out black people openly, they'll just make our lives so hard we'll have to leave.

M Yeah. Immigration laws. They want to keep black people out but allow white people in. I don't think it's fair.

H The white people asked the black people to come over here in the first place to help them build up their towns and industry and stuff. The black people have got all the jobs that the white people don't want.

Q What do you think the future holds for you in Hackney then - or for black people in general?

J Not a lot ... The dole queue
(Laughs from everyone)

Footnote:
"SUS" - 1824 Vagrancy Act which allows police to arrest people on the suspicion that they are about to commit an arrestable offence. No offence needs to have been done so really no proof is needed to find someone guilty under this law. The police officer's word is enough.

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State Racism:

THE DECLINE OF THE NATIONAL FRONT AND THE RISE OF RESPECTABLE RACISM

On Sunday, March 3rd, 1980, the National Front (NF), marched through Peckham in South London, an area with a large number of black people. It was the NF's first major march since the elections in May 1979.

The last year or so has seen a great many developments in the internal politics of the Front. This has been due largely to the infighting that is taking place as a result of their failure to get many votes in the last election, (which came as a great surprise after their election gains in 1974).

Interestingly, the "London Programme", (ITV, Friday; February 29th), did a programme on the NF entitled "The Rise and Fall of the National Front". In it, they examined the origins of the NF, the Nazi backgrounds of many of their leaders, and their rise in electoral politics over the last twelve years. In the 1974 elections, when race became a major election issue, (shortly after many racist, public statements by Enoch Powell and the media's hysterical coverage of the "influx" of Ugandan Asian refugees - all holding British passports but, unfortunately, with black faces), the National Front gained a spectacular number of votes

NF Poll

In many boroughs the NF polled more votes than the Liberal Party. In one South London borough the combined vote of the NF and the racist National Party (NP) was greater than the Labour Party vote. Perhaps if these two extreme right-wing groups had put up a joint candidate, we may have seen, for the first time in Britain, a Nazi Member of Parliament (MP) in the House of Commons. In London's East End, the National Front gained 17% of the total vote in Bethnal Green and Bow, and 19% of the vote in Hackney South.

The "London Programme" tried to analyse what had happened in the five years between the 1974 and 1979 elections to make the National Front's vote fall so drastically. The programme presented no real answer to this vital question, although it looked at a number of factors. Among these factors were the rise of a large and vociferous anti-racist, anti-fascist movement, (seen most clearly in the rise of the Anti-Nazi League (ANL)); the determined and self-organised defence of the black communities by black people themselves; and the Tory Party's use of race as a major election issue.

However, the programme failed to look at the rise of the National Front in the con-

text of the wider political climate of the late 1960's and the 1970's, and the economics that determined the need, or lack of it, for the cheap labour force provided by black immigrants. If the programme had done so, it may well have begun to understand why the NF's vote was so high in 1974, for the rise of the National Front is connected to the beginning of Britain's economic slump. When Britain found that it no longer needed the cheap immigrant labour that she had needed and recruited in the post-war years, she had to find a rationale to get rid of those black workers. In addition, it was an easy sleight of hand to blame the symptoms of the economic recession, (poor housing, increasing unemployment, cuts in social services, hospital and school closures, high prices and low wages, etc.) on the small number of black workers in Britain. They were the perfect scapegoat!

Black Immigration

But in order to use black immigration as a diversion to stop people - and especially working class people - looking for the real root of these problems, the ruling class had to make racism respectable. And the National Front, (with a little help from its friends in the Labour and Conservative Parties; the Press and mass media; Big Business and the bosses; the Police and Law Courts, etc) were the perfect tool.

The role of the National Front was to create the atmosphere, the climate of public opinion, where to be racist was to be not only acceptable but also respectable. After all, to be racist was also to be patriotic... Hence, as early as 1964, the Tory candidate for Smethwick came to be elected on the openly racist slogan, "If you want a nigger neighbour, vote Labour".

In this climate of increasingly overt racism, the Labour Party helped to draft one of the most openly racist Immigration Laws (all immigration laws in Britain are racist because they discriminate against black people), which was passed under the Heath Government in 1971. Later, the Tory Party took up the sort of propaganda that the National Front had first voiced.

Numbers Game

During the late '60s and early and mid-'70s, the "Numbers Game" (that too many blacks equals bad race relations) was played by all political parties. It was the rationale, the reasoning, behind successive Immigration Acts and Nationality Laws.

Taken to its logical conclusion, the "Numbers Game" means that if there were no

black people in the country, there would be no race relations problem AND, apparently, no housing shortage, no unemployment, no cuts in public spending, no inflation and so on. The Tories, therefore, applied themselves to the task of convincing the public of the link between black immigration and Britain's economic problems. As Margaret Thatcher put it in 1979,

"there are a large number of people who are rather afraid that we are being rather swamped by people of an alien culture".

Tory Party

By the 1979 election, then, the Tory Party was encouraging black people to "go home". They took up the NF cry of repatriation - but indirectly. Black people were to be hounded homes and workplaces raided for passports, families and dependants refused entry to Britain, refugees refused adequate emergency housing, racist attacks on countless men, women and children, sometimes resulting in death, never investigated properly or prevented where possible: all these things added up to a climate where black people were seen and treated as second class citizens. Not to mention that they already had the worst housing, the highest rate of unemployment, the lowest wages for the worst jobs, and the worst schooling of any group in Britain.

The Tory Party had finally taken on OPENLY and wholeheartedly the doctrine of the National Front as regards race. "Voluntary" repatriation was encouraged, and if black people wouldn't go of their own accord, then the Government would make quite sure that conditions would be so unpleasant for them that they would want to go "home", (even though many of the youth had been born in Britain, the land of hope and glory).

The "London Programme" analysed the rise and fall of the National Front and the issue of race in terms of numbers, (for example showing an upsurge in racist feelings with the "influx" of Asian refugees, etc).

THE REAL QUESTION IS NOT, AND HAS NEVER BEEN, NUMBERS. THE REAL CAUSE AND ROOT OF RACISM IS, AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN, TO JUSTIFY A BRUTAL ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF BLACK PEOPLE, FIRST IN THE THIRD WORLD AND THEN IN THE WEST.

Scapegoat

The real reason for the rise of the NF was the State's need for a scapegoat for the growing economic depression. The NF was the ideal group to voice the ideas and values, (the ideology), of the ruling



class, (that 10% of the population who own 90% of the wealth but contribute nothing to the production of that wealth). Once they had done so, there was no role left for the NF. After all, why vote for a small party that would get rid of "niggers" and "pakis" when the Tories promised to do the same job with far less fuss and bother?

The decline of the NF is undoubtedly linked, at least in part, to the successful use of racism by the State.

No wonder the NF's leaders are fighting among themselves. No wonder the NF are confused about what direction to take now. The Tories have stolen their fire, while the Labour Party are trying to keep up with the Tories without totally betraying the ideals of equality on which its party is supposedly founded.

Meanwhile, what of the anti-racist movement in this country, and in an area like Hackney?

With the decline of the NF the problem of fighting racism takes on a new aspect. It is clearly not enough to fight only against groups like the National Front when the problem goes much deeper and far further.

To fight racism in Britain today involves fighting State racism, a part of British daily life. To fight racism

requires fighting 400 years of ideas of racial superiority - ideas which are part of the basic fabric of British Society.

As Colin Winter, (Bishop of Namibia) put it, "The British people take it (racism) in with their mother's milk." (In an interview, "The Controversialists", BBC1, Sunday March 2nd).

So the NF need not be too dismayed at their election failures last year. The National Front may not have come to power - but their ideas clearly have. The National Front may well be on the decline - but racism is on the increase. It is rampant throughout all layers of British society....

Many of the ideas in this article are not new. For an excellent and deeper analysis of these issues read:

- (1) "Race, Class and the State: the Black Experience in Britain" by A. Sivanandan. (A Race and Class pamphlet, price 30pence)
- (2) "From Immigration Control to Induced Repatriation" by A. Sivanandan. (A Race and Class pamphlet, price 30pence)
- (3) "Racism, Fascism and the Politics of the National Front" by David Edgar. (A Race and Class pamphlet, price 30pence)

All these pamphlets are available from the Institute of Race Relations, 247/249, Pentonville Road, London N.1. (TEL: 837 0041). Or from Centerprise Bookshop, 136/138, Kingsland High Street, London E.8. (TEL: 254 9632).

EDITORIAL

It would be wrong to believe, as the press would have us believe, that racism in this country is disappearing just because the National Front lost support at the last election. In the last election the Conservatives fought and won with the policies on immigration that the National Front themselves fully supported - policies even more overtly racist than those of their Labour predecessors.

Racism has not disappeared it has just become more respectable.

This Bulletin comes out just after the first anniversary of the "Southall Riots" and the death of Blair Peach. On Sunday 27 April 3000 people responded to a call by the Southall Defence Committee and the Friends of Blair Peach and marched through the centre of London. The march was called to pledge solidarity with the 342 people arrested that day, and to protest at the delay in bringing Blair Peach's murderers to trial.

This Bulletin is brought out by HCAR (Hackney Committee Against Racism). If you are interested in what we do come along to a meeting and find out more. HCAR meets every first Wednesday of the month at 8 pm in the Labour and Trades Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Or you can contact HCAR secretary at 986 1300 (evenings).

This Bulletin would welcome contributions, letters, comments and information for the next issue. If you are interested in giving us a hand, or telling us about any experiences that you have had, or want to get involved in fighting racism - get in touch.

HCAR c/o Hackney CRE, 245 Mare Street, E.8.

JUSTICE IN THE COURTS

Conditional discharge for youth who murdered Asian

John Till, 20, of Beale Road, Bow, kicked Pakistani Kayimarz Anklesaria in the head in a train at Bromley-by-Bow underground station last August because he seemed to be smiling all the time.

But the smile which led to 44-year-old Kayimarz's death was the result of a rickshaw accident in Karachi, Pakistan, which left him with a facial disability. It left his face flexed into a permanent smile - and it was this smile that led to the unprovoked attack by Till.

On Monday at the Old Bailey Till was given a 12 month conditional discharge by High Court Judge Mr. Justice Comyn.

After telling Till that the courts would act to stamp out the "scourge" of present day violence the judge jailed him for two years.

But he was immediately reminded that because Till was under 21, he could only receive a sentence of six months or less, or three years or more.

This loophole in the law allowed Till to walk to freedom after spending six months in custody awaiting trial.

Defence counsel said at the trial that Till thought the victim was behaving in a homosexual manner and was encouraged into believing that

because Till and his friends let one District Line train go by at Mile End without getting on it, as did Mr. Anklesaria.

Mr. Kenneth Richardson, prosecuting, said: "There is no evidence that the victim was inclined towards other men. He was the subject of ridicule from these youths, and he did not retaliate and simply peaceably got on the train and sat down."

"When the train arrived at Bromley-by-Bow, Till told his friends he was going to kick or hit this man."

"One of his friends said 'Leave it out' but Till moved towards him and kicked him with the inside of his foot on the right side of the head and neck."

Till, who pleaded not guilty to murder but guilty to manslaughter, said in a statement: "My intention was just to hurt him. I didn't think it would kill him."

In passing the "aborted" two years sentence, the judge said: "You were guilty of an appalling act of violence against a totally inoffensive man in a tube train. I am quite prepared to accept that you never intended to kill him or thought that you were likely to kill him."

(East London Advertiser, 7/3/8)

Storm over 'Sambo' case

A storm of protest erupted last night after a judge cleared a teacher of racial discrimination.

Judge Irvon Sunderland said that terms like "sambo" and "nignog" were not racist in the circumstances of the case.

Immigrant groups reacted with anger and dismay.

One leader said: "This could open the flood-gates to the rise of further offensive expressions and slogans"

The judge made his comments at the end of a case in Birmingham brought by a black schoolboy against his white former teacher.

Teenager Cecil Stephens claimed he has been called "sambo" and "nignog" by Graham Bramble and that the expressions were unlawful under the Race Relations Act.

But Judge Sunderland said that even if the expressions had been used, they "could not by any stretch of the imagination be described as discriminatory".

He threw out the case, which had been brought with the assistance of the Commission for Racial Equality.

Finally, it seems a great shame to make a film which appeared to reinforce many white people's ideas, (however liberal) about black people. A film which was, in the final analysis, more concerned with the failures of the three black brothers - and therefore, by implication, the failures of the black community - than the failures of the society.

Wesley Dick himself raised various points about the film, (though never having seen it himself). Below are re-printed extracts from two letters written by Wesley Dick. The first extract was written in December 1978 - before the film was shown on television.

The extracts are printed by kind permission of "Grass-roots" the monthly paper of the Black Liberation Front.

It is perhaps ironic that the points he raises about such a film are more political and more clear-sighted than those made by many who saw the film. His understanding of the causes of the siege, the importance of the struggle and the possible shortcomings of the film are clear and concise.

Perhaps it takes someone shut up in a prison to remind us of our chains - and how to break out of them. Wesley's letters are a powerful reminder of how to struggle and where.

Yours sincerely,
Natasha Sivanandan
(HCAR member)

EDITORIAL COMMENT: What Price

a Black Life?

It appears that white people who attack black people for no reason except that they don't like the "look" of them, is becoming increasingly acceptable. When the Virk Brothers, (four Sikh brothers in Newham), defended themselves against an unprovoked attack by white racists they were sentenced to seven years, four years, three and one year periods of imprisonment, (for the basic "mistake" of trying to protect themselves). No doubt if Mr. Anklesaria had defended himself and inflicted any damage on his attacker, it would have been him facing prosecution. No doubt he would have been given a sentence longer than that received by John Till.

It becomes increasingly plain that black people can expect no real justice in the law courts. Last year, when Michael Ferreira, a West Indian, was killed by three

racists in Hackney two of his attackers received no jail sentences and the one who stabbed Michael received only 5 years. In his summing up on the case the Judge commented that he had given the white youth a low sentence partly because of his youth. It is a pity that no-one took into account the youth of Michael who was only 19 years old when his life was brutally, and for no reason, ended.

In Britain black people have countless examples of the workings of "British justice". Whether it be racist abuse, attacks or murder, black people are the victims of racism, in the first instance, at the hands of white individuals and in the second instance at the hands of magistrates and judges.

Sadly, it appears that if you are black, (or black and homosexual), your life is not quite as important as if you are white.

Spaghetti House Siege : WESLEY

SPEAKS

December 1978

Horace Ove is making a film bout de siege. I would like fe help him but cha, it's hard fe explain in a letta. Him write me and tell me bout it. He ask me fe give him so some details about my life an what happened to me to motivate me into carry on wid de siege. I tell him sey if him check Bonga and Frank dey most probably will give him some-thing. But me, I'd sooner fe keep quiet. I will tel yu de 3 basic reasons:

1. Pride
2. Beggary
3. Frank

Now de explanations.

1. Pride - I don't see getting beat by de wicked as anything to boast or shout about and definitely nothing to film about. I hate getting beat.

2. Beggary - Because we did get beat any film about us made by Blacks can only try to portray us in a sympathetic way. Digging up the usual boring "racism, unemployment, police brutality" etc, in short looking at our social back grounds an interpreting our actions in de light of unfortunate hardships brought about by oppressive society. Now all dat is true, I know I had a very tough time but it seems to me dat only ah go beg for sympathy to be shown towards us. I don't deal in beggary, is nothing but struggle I deal with.

3. Frank - Now dis is de worse bit. I could get over de other 2 reasons if I really push myself but dis one is impossible. If dat seize had ended any other way, if de wicked did shot we up, of if dey trick we and captive us, or if anything else did happen it wouldn't bother me. But Frank pull dat shotgun on me an sey him ah go blow off my head! how can yer fight when yer key spar wan shoot you instead of de wicked??? Is madness!!! How can I agree to dat??? Den when we go ah court

after we fight dem down de first day ah de trial, him go in de witness box to cuss us off.

Now Horace might do us justice an do de best he can. He may take de historic view and treat de seize as a fact that happened and work it from der. But I still don't dig it. Still, I hear sey Bonga and Frank did give him der view of things so dat will be useful.

It make de whole ting look stupid, a joke, a bunch of niggers playing games den when de game get to tough dem crack up. Yu see my point. How can I agree to ah film wid dat kinda bullshit... Dem kinda ting should make any self-respecting man go hide himself. Is pure shame. When M.G.M or Fox, or whoever it was did sey dem de wan mek ah film an dem wan gi me dunny fe de story, I say leggo, me na wan know bout it. I still feel de same way.

As dey will go ahead an mek it no matter what I think den yu can tell Archie dat I never write any real poems until de wicked give me de beating of my life an send me go ah Ashford fe four months. Is dat wha get me really serious. Befor den I used to write but not too much. I was in de organisation befor I went to Ashford, but I was coasting. Afterwards, it was pure war. An is suss dat de wicked do me on dat time.

DECEMBER 1979

No, I never see de film but people tell me sey it wasn't too bad. Dem make a whole heap of mistake an get de ending wrong but as I don't check fe films it doesn't bother me. Dey can make 1,000 films of de siege none ah dem will free me an dat's all I intersted inna, immediate unconditional release from dis tortur chamber. Instead most probably de authorities will jus keep me in fe de rest ah de sentence in de vain attempt de teach I fe beg them, but I laugh afta dem. I nah beg dem nothin

Wesley Dick

LETTERS

Dear "Hackney against Racism",

I wonder how many of your readers saw the film "A Hole in Babylon", (Play for Today, BBC1) shown on television last November.

The film was supposed to be an accurate account of the "Spaghetti House Siege" which took place in the autumn of 1975. In 1975 three black brothers attempted to rob the Spaghetti House Restaurant in Knightsbridge, London. The alarm was set off and the black brothers were surrounded by police before they could escape so they took hostages and escaped to the basement of the restaurant. The siege lasted a number of days during which time the three black brothers made various political demands of the state, such as the release of a black political prisoner, in exchange for letting the hostages go free.

The political motives for the robbery - the fact that the black brothers wished to use the money from the robbery to further the cause of black people, to help them to fight against the Babylon (British society) - was played down totally by the press and the government and the police. (Sir Robert Mark was chief of the Metropolitan Police at the time of the siege and in charge of operations.)

Four years later the film, co-written and directed by Horace Ove, set out to dramatise the siege and give the backgrounds of the three brothers (Frank Davis, Wesley Dick, and Bonzu Monroe) to show how

British society - its exploitation, racism, and injustice - forced them into the siege.

I found the film lacking in many ways, though I know that many of my white colleagues at work found it a fine film. I, personally, was dismayed at its superficial and rather unsympathetic characterisation - the three black people involved never really came to life. Nor did the real impact of the total brutality and waste which racism entails, come across.

I felt that the film did not really evaluate the factors which led to the attempted robbery and siege. Nor did the film show us what really pushes people to such measures. In fact, the film totally accepted that what they did was wrong and stupid without questioning why it was wrong and badly handled. Wrong from whose point of view? The police's? The media's? Or black people's point of view?

Instead, I got the uneasy feeling that those who made the film were somehow justifying (to whom? to white people?) the black brothers' actions. As if they were saying, "well, look, these brothers have had a rough deal; they didn't really know what they were doing". I wonder what their position would have been if the brothers had been successful with their robbery.

Also the film spent too long looking at their shortcomings and backgrounds - they would have been better showing the State's. The answer to why the siege happened doesn't lie with the three black brothers (all still in jail) but in the society they and ourselves live in.

MORE FUN AND GAMES AT LESNEYS

A company not particularly noted for its sympathetic approach to industrial relations, Lesneys Products must hold the world record for the speed with which it carries through its redundancies.

Three months ago, over 2,000 employees at factories in Hackney and east London were "asked to leave" at two days' notice, as the first stage in their rationalisation plans (see HPP 53). The directors must still be congratulating themselves on the precision of their operation, and the small fortune they saved: for although the workers received a cash sum when they left, the company got out of having to pay overtime, bonuses and National Insurance contributions which the workers would have been entitled to had they stayed the statutory 90-day redundancy period.

Closures

A further drawback to those workers who "chose" to leave was that some unemployment benefit offices did not recognise that the eight weeks pay they received was part of their redundancy deal, but assumed it was pay in lieu; as a result many workers had to wait six weeks before they received any unemployment benefit.

Towards the end of April, Lesneys carried through the second stage of their cut-backs and put a further 500 people out of work. The bulk of these redundancies came from the Abbey Wood and Har-

low sites, which are due to close down at the end of May. However, it was only on 14 April that staff representatives were notified about these plans. Judging from the success of their previous exercise, the management seemed to have realised that surprise is an important element in preventing resistance to their measures, particularly as the unions do not seem to be well organised in any of the factories. Again, within a matter of days of the announcement the workers had left.

"Cavalier"

It will be interesting to see whether the DHSS adopts the same attitude as before and suspends the workers' unemployment benefit for six weeks. Works convenor Albert Felton claims that he had not heard of anyone having problems about signing on, but there definitely have been cases of people having to wait for their benefit...

An ASTMS official expressed irritation at Lesneys "cavalier attitude" over redundancies, which seem to show scant regard for the exceptional employment problems which Hackney faces.

Concerning the company's rationalisation plans, he believed that the closure of the Rochford and Harlow factories would mean that work would be concentrated on the existing sites and so reduce overheads. But, he said, "I will be worried for a long time about the state of the company."

The company is obviously

in a difficult financial position and they are apparently being advised by the Bank on all the moves they make. Thus any decision about the future of the company will be taken on a purely financial basis rather than in response to the needs of the market. Part of the company's financial "problems" must be due to mismanagement: the failure to recognise the changing trends in the toy market towards more technological products; but company surveys do not betray any apprehension on the part of the directors. In June 1979, Lesneys chairman, T M Tapscott, declared that "the product range was stronger than ever and the group's production resources have never been greater... there is much in the company's favour which should result in a better trading year". This confidence was reflected in the company's strong position in the share market.

Economise

So why did Lesneys suddenly jump from a position of strength to one where it has to close down two of its factories and cut back on staff? It seems that the government's economic policies have persuaded even the larger manufacturers to play it safe and economise - at the expense of those workers forced on to the dole queue. Time will tell how many more employees will face the same fate - unless the Tories abolish unemployment benefit by then.

Tap comes to Hackney

On Saturday 26th April Will Gaines, one of the last of the 'old time' black American tap-dancers, or "hoofers" as he describes them, gave a special performance in Hackney.

His performance was in fact a teaching session that was part of a Day of Dance organised by the Arts section of Hackney Leisure Services in association with the Greater London Arts Council.

It was the first such special day devoted to different kinds of dance that has been held in Hackney, but there may be more in the future. The classes were held throughout the day, free of charge, at Brooke House School in Kenninghall Rd. Michael Quaintance from The Place taught a contemporary dance class for young men only, to encourage more men and boys to take up dancing. There was a class taught by a member of the Ballet Rambert, a tap class and a Soul-Jazz class taught by Karl Campbell.

The Day of Dance was organised to provide further teaching to pupils who learnt dancing at secondary school and who had nowhere to continue once they left. There are also council-sponsored classes held on a regular basis throughout the borough, such as those at Chats Palace, with the same aim in mind, building on the interest and ability shown at such events as the annual dance festival held in Stoke Newington.

Unorthodox

The attendance at the tap dancing class on Saturday afternoon certainly bears out the interest in dance in Hackney. The hall was full of men and women, boys and girls, aged anywhere from about eight to about forty, and they all obviously enjoyed the class and appreciated Will Gaines' unorthodox methods of participative teaching which consisted of watch, listen and "do your own thing" - or, be happy through to your feet.

ADVERTISEMENT



TEL 254 6677

MAY PROGRAMME

Sat 3	VARIETY and WAXWORKS	11.15 pm
Sun 4	Asian Film Programme	12.30 pm
Mon 5		
For 5 days (not Fri)	KRAMER VS KRAMER	
Fri 9	Meg Christian In Concert (£2.50)	7.30 pm
Fri 9 May	FRENCH CONNECTION I and II	11.15 pm
Sat 10	TORA! TORA! TORA!	11.15 pm
Sun 11	COMA and FIGHT THE CUTS	2.30 pm
Mon 12	WOMEN'S CINEMA FESTIVAL	
For 6 days	(see separate box)	
Sun 18	Asian Film Programme	12.30 pm
Mon 19		
For 6 days	RUDE BOY	7.15 pm
Thurs 22		
For 3 days	SEESAW - Live Theatre	9.45 pm
Fri 23	THE DAMNED	11.15 pm
Sat 24	EYES OF LAURA MARS and PEEPING TOM	11.15 pm
Sun 25	Asian Film Programme	12.30 pm
Mon 26	ROCKERS and	
For 6 days	ROCK, ROOTS AND REGGAE	
Fri 30	THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN and SEVEN DAYS IN MAY	11.15 pm
Sat 31	Pan Africa Benefit - Live Event	11.15 pm

A FESTIVAL OF WOMEN'S FILMS

Mon 12	A TOKEN GESTURE, SIZE 10, SOME AMERICAN FEMINISTS and A WOMAN'S PLACE (8 pm)	6.15 and 8.30
Tues 13	OFTEN DURING THE DAY and WOMEN OF THE RHONDDA and COUP POUR COUP	6.15 and 8.45
Wed 14	MY LOVE HAS BEEN BURNING and BERNICE BOBS HER HAIR	6.15 and 8.45
Thur 15	SECRET STORM, NINE MONTHS and ANIMATION FOR LIVE ACTION	6.15 and 8.45
Fri 16	TAKING A PART and KLUTE	7.15 and 8.20
Fri 16	QUEEN CHRISTINA and CHRISTOPHER STRONG	11.15
Sat 17	THE SPELL OF THE PAST and WE'RE ALIVE and LINA BRAAKE	4.55 and 7.55
Sat 17	ADAM'S RIB and NOW VOYAGER	11.15

COMING SOON...

The Rio will be staging the London premiere of Eric Presland's "Seesaw" at the end of May, fresh from a rapturous reception in the pubs of Birmingham. The performance is fast, funny and very visual; it includes elements of mime, magic, circus, acrobatics and fire-eating. The play's main theme is the games that couples play, be they men or women, gay or straight. The two characters' sexes are deliberately left unspecified, though in this performance they are played by two men actors. Written by playwright/Rioworker Presland, and directed by Peter Stillwell, this is the Rio's first "own production".

'Scum'

Elsewhere the most interesting new arrival is "Scum" at the Konak. A short sharp cinematic shock, this film is recommended viewing for all advocates of Mr. White-law's penal policy who have not been inside a Borstal recently.

Based on a play banned by the B.B.C., the film retains the claustrophobic intensity of the small screen and of the institution that it depicts. Much of it is harrowing to watch, particularly the two suicides, countless brutal fights and one anal rape. Through this welter of violence and frustration Ray Winstone moves impassively to become "daddy" of the Borstal. Excelling all other inmates in brutality and ruthlessness, his value is recognised by the staff, who co-opt him onto the authority structure, to which violence is integral rather than an act of defiance.

Other patterns of resistance prove less easy for the institution to assimilate, such as that of a hippy who refuses to use animal products and constantly changes religion, which goads his gaolers to a fury.

Only after the second suicide does Winstone see the extent to which he has been duped, and by withdrawing his support from the base of the whole pyramid of violence,

brings the whole structure down in a riot.

Main features at the Rio include 80's style weepie "Kramer vs. Kramer", the film selected to be seen by the regal eye, and no doubt quite unsuitable for anybody else. More interesting are 2 music based films: "Rude Boy" featuring the Clash, and "Rockers" with everybody who's anybody in Reggae. Lates include Visconti at his most opulent and formal depicting Nazidom in "The Damned".

Women's Films

May is an exceptionally good month for women's programmes in Hackney. There will be a week-long women's film festival at the Rio from the 12th to the 17th, with programmes changing daily, followed by a women's cinema workshop at Centerprise on the 18th. There is a Women-only concert by feminist singer/songwriter Meg Christian at the Rio, and also worth noting is the benefit screening of "Coma", proceeds to the Hackney Health Campaign.

HACKNEY PAPER KIDS MAY

EASTER HOLIDAY

My Easter holidays were very funny, and my friends Alison, Helga, Leann Lisa and me were being very bad indeed. We had a good time by beating up kids and all the teachers were running after us and Caroline my other friend. She got caught and she is a tramp and when it was home time we did hide from Miss Guide, the boss, and she did catch Alison and Lee and she did not catch me, but Alison gave me away, and when we had to go on an outing we was being bad.

Jokes

Knock, Knock
Who's there?
Felix
Felix who?
Felix my ice cream I'll burst him.

Why did the Turkey walk across the road?
To prove it wasn't a chicken

What I THINK ABOUT THE QUEEN AND HER GREAT GREAT GRAN MOTHER

I think she is horrible, I think she makes the food and the chips and other things go up in price. I think she is a little bitch, and I hate to look at her ugly face.

Queen Victoria married Prince Albert and had several children. She was strict. When her children were old she would not let them go out and look for a job, she just wanted them to stand around the throne and was horrible to her kids and just because Prince Albert was not king whenever Prince Albert and Queen Victoria went out, Prince Albert had to walk



THE QUEEN

behind Queen Victoria. When Prince Albert was dead, Queen Victoria did wear a black dress all the time.

BADGE making

Badge making is a art because there are a lot of complicated things to do, not just any Tom, Dick or Harry can do it because it has to be explained in detail. It takes about 30 minutes to learn. The first couple of badges come out wrong. We used to do it at festivals like Clissold Park.

WORKING WITH MY UNCLE

Last week I was working with my uncle. He asked me if I wanted to go work with him. Then I said Yes. On the first day he asked me to mix up some cement, then I did. I found out that it could kill your back if you do it every day. The second day he asked me to do a bit of plastering. I did not do it very well. I done mixing the sand and cement for the rest of the week. At the end I was rather tired.

More Jokes.

Why did the human cannon ball have to go?
Because he was fired.

What do you get if you cross a sheep and a dog?
A sheep-dog.

Trouble in France

In the summer a group of children and a few adults will be travelling to France to do some camping for about 2 weeks.

We will get there by bus, train, hovercraft and then by minibus. Over the last few weeks we have been having meetings about what things we are going to be doing over there. We were supposed to be bringing bikes but not all of us could get hold of a bike. When we get there we will be touring all different types of campsites.

To be able to go over to France we will have to raise about £1,500 in 2 to 3 months.

P.S. On the 9th May we will be having a benefit disco at

CHATS PALACE, Brooksby's Walk, Homerton, LONDON E9.

If you would like to come and support us tickets are £1.50 for adults and 75p for children. There will be food and raffle tickets on sale.

MUSIC BY Steve King

MOD ALBUM

'Beat That' - FR Records
The PURPLE HEARTS have got their first LP out, called 'Beat That'. On it the tracks are 'Frustration' and 'Jimmy Jimmy', which is a B-side to their first single. There are some good tracks on the album.

It's a good album, I think so anyway. They are a good

live band; however this album don't live up to what they are like live. But it'll do for now, till they play soon.

*** fair

By the way a band called the LAMBRETTAS have a single out in the charts called 'Poison Ivy', a 1957 hit by the Coasters. Pretty good.

Anybody out there know the CROOKS BAND? Well I have for one. I have seen them. They have just released a record on Blue Print Records, with: 'All the Time in the World', 'The Modern Boys', 'You Don't Have to Tell Me', 'Let's Get Together' Mod music.
*** fair;

EASTER PROJECT

Centerprise's Easter Holiday Project this year consisted of a photography project and a one-day canal boat trip. The photography project decided on the following themes:

Black people in Hackney
Working people in Hackney
Buses
Kids in Hackney
Tourist's London



The finished exhibition will be on display in the coffee bar in Centerprise later on in the year but in the mean time are two of the pictures taken by the kids.



information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.

The information on this page has been revised and updated, but we would welcome any further corrections or additions. For the June issue please send them to us by Friday 23 May. Our address is HPP, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION
34 Dalston Lane, E8
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT
74 Downham Road N1.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am-10pm
Thursday 10am-4.30pm
Friday 10am-10pm

OFF CENTRE
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Thursdays).

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973 (office hours)
986 9146 (office hours)

FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS
Represents Borough, GLC, housing assocn and private tenants.
Contact Terry Robinson, 380 Old St, EC1. 739 3631.

HACKNEY HOUSING ACTION GROUP
contact 249 2281 or 249 8715.

ACORN TENANTS ASSOCIATION
Represents New Islington & Hackney Housing Assocn tenants.
Contact Terry Robinson. 739 3631

Ecology

HACKNEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
Active group, campaigning on safe energy, bikes, wildlife, recycling etc. Contact Jim Read, 67 Fairholt Road, N16. 802 0122.

HACKNEY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP
Open to all those wishing to combat nuclear power.
Meets every other Thursday in Centerprise. Contact 226 1799

SUN POWER ECOLOGY CENTRE
83, Blackstock Road, N.4.
Bookshop specialises in the environment, cooking, health, education, childrens' books; also crafts and some wholefoods. 01 226 1799

HACKNEY SOCIETY

An amenity group, affiliated to the Civic Trust, concerned with Hackney's environment and architecture. Meets on the third Monday of each month.
Details from Chairman, David Batchelor, Tel. 985 7937 or Secretary, Robert Hill, 75 Glyn Road E5 Tel. 986 8761.

Women

HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 6208.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets monthly - talks, films, activities. For information phone Nathalie 254 9508.

OFF CENTRE

Drop-in centre for Young Unemployed.

Free snacks, use of telephones and newspapers. A meeting place for the young unemployed.

Off Centre Basement.
25 Hackney Grove, E8.
986 4016.

Community Centres

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
Bookshop and office hours:
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.
Coffee bar and meeting room hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10am-9.30pm.
Saturday 10am-5.30pm.
FACILITIES:
Coffee bar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used, free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.
ADVICE CENTRE:
Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm.
READING CENTRE:
For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.
PUBLISHING PROJECT:
Publishing books by people who live in Hackney.

WALLY FOSTER CENTRE
Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972.
Community Centre with many activities:
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE: every weekday 9am-5pm.
ADULT LITERACY CLASSES:
Every Monday at 7pm.
Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group, pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth club for 5-8 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance classes.
See also **ADVICE** and **NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES** listings.

THE FACTORY
107 Matthias Road, N16 (next to Newington Green School). Tel. 249 3066.
Runs mothers and toddlers clubs, sewing classes, English classes, youth club, childminders drop-in group (creche provided), after school club, arts and crafts club, pensioners lunch club, food co-op and an Indian dance class.
Contact them for further details.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help for all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities.
Mothers and toddlers group on Thursdays, 1.30-3.30pm (homeworkers especially welcome).
"Encourage your child to read" class on Mondays, 5.30-7.30pm. Supplementary school now operating. Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Contact them for further information.
Also see **ADVICE** and **Neighbourhood English** Classes and **Gingerbread** under **COMMUNITY GROUPS** listings on this page.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
Runs playgroup, pensioners lunch club, legal advice centre, after-school junior club and writers' workshop as well as evening classes in shoe repairing, dressmaking, pottery, crafts, old-time dancing and singing. Also Women's Discussion Group and the Hoxton Drama Group.
Many events take place in the theatre each month-see the **EVENTS AND MEETINGS** section. Also see **ADVICE** listing.

CHATS PALACE
42-44 Brooksby's Walk, E9.
986 6714. Meeting space, bar for club members, duplicating, workshop, clubs, classes, jazz, music hall, supplementary school, youth activities, hall for hire.

Education

ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES

For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:

Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AE1, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.

Donald Kenrick, CLAPTON AE1, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.

Graham Morris, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 249 7221.

June Hewes, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street, N1. 739 5153.

Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.

Cal Weatherald, HIGHBURY MANOR AE1, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4 226 9199.
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street, N1. 739 5431.

HACKNEY LANGUAGE SCHEME
Teach the kind of English needed in day-to-day life. Classes operate throughout Hackney. For further information contact Annette Giles, 249 1496, or call at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16 on Thursday mornings.

Meditation

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION
Partnership for Progress in Hackney: regular introductory talks. Ring 254 6280 for details.

ANANDA MARGA
1 Cazenove Road, N16.

For spiritual progress and social change.
Meditation classes for men Wednesday 8.00pm
Meditation classes for women Tuesday 8.00pm and Wednesday 2.00pm.
Sewing class Tuesday 7.00pm.

Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

KINGSMEAD
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9. Tel. 985 3804.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.
STOKE NEWINGTON ADVICE GROUP SERVICE.
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

ALLEN ROAD
12 Allen Road, N16.
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE
236 B Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

HACKNEY COUNCIL FOR RACIAL EQUALITY. 245 Mare St, E8
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems. 986 4121.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help in all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
302.4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE
5 Stamford Hill, N16.
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.
SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from **HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT, OFF CENTRE** and **FRIENDS ANONYMOUS**. See Community Groups listing on this page.

*For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see **LABOUR PARTY** under **POLITICAL GROUPS** listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? Evicted?

EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE

Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

Workshops

THE WORKSHOP
81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082
Print your own posters and T-shirts. Cost of materials only. Open by arrangement.

COMET WORKSHOP
Halcumb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936.
Learn sewing, macrame, toymaking, woodwork. Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee. Open every weekday.

WORKSHOP
77a, Lauriston Road, E.9.
01 986 9585 Open 10.00 - 6.00 Mon. - Sat.

Pottery workshop and shop selling ceramics and pottery handmade in the workshop. Also Macrame plant hangers, jewelry, cards and other crafts.

Gays

GAY SWITCHBOARD
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

EAST LONDON CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality)
East London CHE welcomes gay women and men. For details phone John, 504 1110 or Kate, 539 2331.

GEMMA
Gemma Group for Disabled Lesbians, including older women. Contact BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX.

Transport

HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE
Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9. Tel. 986 2303.

HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP
Contact Tessa Bain, 10 Kynaston Road, N16. 254 4559



Health

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/8351.
The public's voice in the NHS-provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes **HEALTH IN HACKNEY**: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Pardon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

Volunteers needed at: Huddleston Centre, St James the Great Church, Lower Clapton Rd. E.5. 01 985 8869.

THE BIRTH CENTRE
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital. Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP
c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP
Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 3277.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION
188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL CAMPAIGN

Hackney & District branch.
Meets at John Scott Health Centre, Green Lanes, N4.
Contact Rose McNulty 800 3108 (evenings) or Hilda Burd 800 2124 (anytime).

Children

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES
136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Information and support for parents with children under school age. Stores open on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Open monthly meetings on 3rd Tuesday of each month. Tel 254 9145.

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.

Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Lilian McPetridge

CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE
112b Forest Road E8.
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting-with creche.

Food

TOWARDS JUPITER
191 Mare Street E8. 985 5394
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.
FOOD FOR ALL
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts.

SHANTI VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT
1 Cazenove Road, N.16

Vegetarian meals.
Wed, Thurs and Fri 7.00-9.00pm.
Sat 12.00-2.00pm.
Full vegetarian meal 65p.

Vegetarian cookery classes:
Wed 5.30pm and Sat 10.30am.

Music

POETRY AND MUSIC CLUB
The Chatterbox, 1a, Chatterton Rd, (off Blackstock Rd.) Finsbury Park, N.4.
Weds. 8.00 - 11.00 p.m.
All welcome. 20p admission. Performers free.

ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP
Sing-song third Thursday every month. 8pm. Free.
Ring Dave 249 0025.

HOME GROWN MUSIC
Chats Palace every Thursday at 8.00pm. 50p admission. Floor singers should contact John Lockhart on 986 6714.

HACKNEY CHESS CLUB
Weds. 7.30pm - 10.30pm
Fri. 7.30pm - 10.00pm
Centerprise Daily
Tues. - Sat.

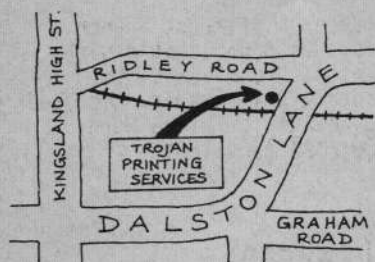
For any information contact T. Wilson, 135, Manor Road, N.16 5PB.

pastures new



TROJAN PRINTING SERVICES, one of the first workers' co-operatives to be set up in Hackney, has moved to bigger, better premises at 85, Dalston Lane. The increased space means we can offer even more facilities. In addition to 2 badge machines, A4 offset litho printing and photostencil cutting, we now have 3 duplicators for duplication in black, red and green and silk screen printing equipment and we are in the process of setting up a photographic darkroom.

Over 50 local groups have already used our facilities to produce posters, badges and T-shirts; we also do sign-writing and murals and provide a layout and design service.



If you think you could make use of our services and you can manage 3 flights of stairs why not pop in and see us? We will show you how to use the equipment or we can do the work for you but, obviously, do-it-yourself is a lot cheaper.

We are open from 11 am to 7 pm Monday to Friday; if you can't make it during the week you could see us at the weekend by arrangement.

Trojan collective

debate likely to be an education

In the present climate of cuts in public expenditure, there is great pressure to ignore or shelve consideration of the nature and democratic control of services threatened with contraction or extinction because of the urgency of campaigns to save those services. In the field of education this situation is no exception where left and progressive forces have increasingly concentrated on fighting the cuts, having little or no time and energy to consider the more fundamental questions relating to the politics of education.

In an attempt to divert some attention back to the politics of education the Hackney Communist Party are holding a public meeting at Centerprise on Friday 16 May at 7.30 pm. The main speaker will be Ian Hextal, a former London secondary school-teacher, now lecturer and writer in education at Goldsmith's College, together with Colin Ravden who teaches at South Hackney school.

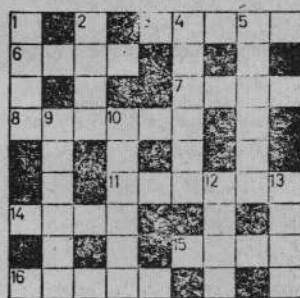
There will be a discussion paper published (available by sending an SAE to 2 Chatsworth Estate, Elderfield Road, E5) in advance, which



will hopefully facilitate an informed debate at the meeting. Much of the comment by the main speaker will hinge around a critique of the position adopted by Professor Brian Simon in the February 1980 "Marxism Today" (available from Centerprise and other good bookshops). This is expected to be a lively and controversial debate and should be of interest not only to teachers but to school and college students, parents and all others who have an interest in all aspects of education, both in Hackney and nationwide.

speedword

by QUANGO



ACROSS

3. Dog's name 6. Parent's sister
7. Jellied 8. Pick 11. Takes exams again 14. Kojak 15. Bark 16. A deadly sin

DOWN

1. Loud noise 2. Single 4. Musical works 5. Join up 9. Writer 10. He fell at Hastings 12. Metal 13. Secure

What's on in Hackney

'UNEMPLOYMENT AND INNER CITIES' - a talk by Stuart Holland MP, leading proponent of Labour's 'Alternative Economic Strategy' - at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 on Monday, 19 May at 7.45pm.

Public meeting organised by Hackney Communist Party on the politics of education with Ian Hextal, lecturer at Goldsmith's College and local teacher Colin Ravden. Centerprise on Friday, 16 May at 7.30pm.

Celebrate the Liberation of Zimbabwe - Saturday, 17 May at Hackney Trades Hall, Dalston Lane, E8. 2.30 - 5.00pm - Film: 'The Battle of South Africa' Battle for South Africa', Colin Winter, Bishop of Namibia and speakers from SWAPO and Anti-Apartheid Movement. Admission free. 8.00pm - Social: Afro-Disco, bar and food. Admission £1 (proceeds to medical aid for SWAPO)

TUC Day of Action - Local march leaves Hackney Town Hall at 10.30am for a family festival in Victoria Park. Wednesday, 14 May.

HACKNEY DAY SCHOOL ON IRELAND

Trade Union speaker from Northern Ireland, local speakers, discussion, film: The Patriot Game.

Workshops:

Army recruitment and unemployment, Women and Ireland, Children of the war: a generation in prison, Irish and British Labour movements and their policy on Northern Ireland, Racism and the Irish experience, Technology and techniques of repression.

Saturday 17 May. Stoke Newington Assembly Hall, Church Street, N.16. 9.30 am - 6 pm.

Sponsored by Hackney Trades Council, Hackney North CLP, Ernie Roberts, MP and Ken Livingstone. Organised by East London Troops Out Movement.

GRAND Book Sale - support your local radical paper! Proceeds towards Hackney People's Press survival fund. All welcome - at Centerprise on Saturday, 17 May at 2.00pm.

KIDS' RIGHTS

Hackney Legal Action Group and Hackney Law Centre have produced a pamphlet on the legal rights of young people. Written in question and answer form, it has plenty of useful information crammed into its 16 pages. It includes sections on You And Your Parents, Love And Marriage, You And School, Getting Nicked, Money And Work, In Care, After You Leave School and a list of useful addresses. It also has some nice cartoons by Christine Roche.

free

You can get free copies of this booklet from Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8; Off Centre, 25 Hackney Grove, E8 or the Citizens' Advice Bureau, 236 Mare Street, E8.



SMALL ADS

ADVERTISE IN YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER!

If you are thinking of selling your bike, stereo, pet fish or indoor swimming pool HPP could work for you! For a meagre 3p a word the columns are yours. Ads must be pre-paid. Cheques or postal orders to Hackney people's Press c/o 136, Kingsland High Street, E.8. Ads for May issue to be received by Friday 25th April.

sun power

83 blackstock rd
tel: 01-226 1799

books on

Nuclear Power
Alternative Energy
Ecology, Nature
Organic Gardening
Self-Sufficiency
Crafts, D.I.Y.
Whole food, Health
Feminism
Anarchism
Fiction
Children's books

open: Mo - Sa 10-6, Thu 12-7

tube: finsbury pk.

FOR SALE 3-speed bicycle in below average condition, lots of fun for 2-wheel handyman! Also 400mm camera lens. Contact Chris Green, 57 Balls Pond Road - Tel. 254 1306

TROJAN PRINTING SERVICES, Workers' Co-operative - for all your printing requirements. Latest fun item - cut-out Maggie Thatcher doll: make HER dance as YOU pull the strings! Only from TROJAN, 85 Dalston Lane (3rd floor)

WASHING machine wanted in working condition, preferably twin-tub. Contact Geoff Holme, 539 5885

HONDA 125'S' for sale. P registration. MOT and tax until November. Good working condition. Contact Cath Jackson, 643 8040 days or 254 2707 evenings.

CENTERPRISE, a multi-purpose community centre based on a bookshop and coffee bar, is looking for three workers to share responsibility for the following: coffee bar, running exhibitions, organising work with young people, organising building maintenance, running the public office, general administrative work, and producing the monthly magazine. The workers will be members of the Centerprise collective, sharing work and responsibility throughout the whole project. Send large SAE for details, or collect from 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Closing date is 12 May.

BEST BOOK BARGAINS

THIS is definitely your last chance to clear out all those Harold Robbins paperback, 'get rid of those Jackie Collins epics and make room for all the right-on, cogent tracts and elevating literature you will be picking up at really bargain prices at the HPP BOOK SALE - Centerprise, on Saturday 17 May at 2pm. Come early to avoid disappointment.

If you have any unwanted books you would like to donate we will be happy to collect them from you. Just telephone 249 0311 (evenings) or 254 1306.

SOLUTION TO HPP CROSSWORD NO. 8

TEST TUBE CARP
I T I A S E R
M A R I G O L D O P O R T O
B A E L U E C U
R O W E R E N G I N E E R S
E S H T L I E
S U N D A Y D R I V E R
S I N A C E E S
C O M E T O N O U G H T
E P C S E S S
P E R M A N E N T A M P L E
T I G R O R Y A
I S S U E S O M I S S I O N
C O N E A N C
S N O T E P R O L O G U E

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. All decisions are made collectively.

We hold meetings every Monday (except the last one in each month) at 8pm in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. You can come along to one of these meetings and volunteer to help us write, produce or sell the next issue - or simply tell us what you think of the paper.

If you can't come one Monday then write to us c/o Centerprise or ring 249 0311 any evening or weekend.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please

contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading HPP and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

Subscribe!

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £2.20 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____